

Application No. 10/072,316
Customer No. 26021

Attorney Docket No. 81751.0029
Reply to Final Office Action of August 11, 2003

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the thorough examination of the application that is reflected in the Office Action dated August 11, 2003. Applicant appreciates the Examiner indication that claims 1-15 are allowed. In an effort to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicant cancels claim 16 without prejudice or disclaimer to the filing of a divisional application to pursue the subject matter of those claims. Applicant amends claims 17 and 18 to eliminate their dependency on cancelled claim 16. Applicant believes that the foregoing amendments comply with requirements of form and thus may be entered under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(a). Entry is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(a) as presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal. Alternatively, to the extent any of these amendments are deemed to touch the merits, then entry is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b). These amendments were not earlier presented because they are in response to the matters pointed out for the first time in the Final Office Action. Accordingly, Applicant submits that all of the remaining claims are in condition for allowance.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6793 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6809 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

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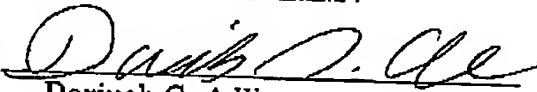
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If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please
charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: November 10, 2003

By:



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